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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

SAYS RED ARMY DEPOTS EXPANDING IN BULGARIA

STRATEGIC DEPCTS SET UP -- Svenska Dagbladet, No 85, 29 Mar 50

Belgrade, 28 March -- According to private sources in Sofia, the expansion of arms, ammunition, food, and forward depots for the Red Army, begun last fall, has been stepped up as of early March and is expected to be completed this year.

A group of strategic depots is being established in Bulgaria to shorten the Red Army's lines of communication in the event of war. It is to be assumed that a diversion attack on the Dardanelles and the Mediterranean is being prepared there, while the main attack may be expected against the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean. One indication of the preparation for war is that the "forbidden area," now covering one third of Bulgaria's territory and closed to all foreigners, is being expanded and more sharply guarded. The forbidden area begins at Lom on the Danube, runs south about 10 kilometers to the east of Sofia to Dupnitsa, then to the east along the Maritsa River to Plovdiv, north to Shumen, and ending at Ruse on the Danube. -- By special correspondent

PROTEST VIOLATION OF DANUBE TREATY -- Rabotnichesko Delo, No 49, 18 Feb 50

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has handed a note to the Yugoslav Embassy protesting the following incident:

On 13 October 1949, the Bulgarian tugboat Ruse, traveling in Yugoslav territorial waters, was the object of a brutal violation on the part of the Yugoslav border authorities in Bezdán. Obviously disregarding the regulations of the International Danube Navigation Treaty, the Yugoslav authorities stepped aboard the Ruse, took the crew under guard, and proceeded to carry out a thorough inspection of the boat, during which they disseminated subversive propaganda leaflets printed in Bulgarian. The crew members were prevented from coming on deck and threatened with arrest under a charge of smuggling.

The Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is lodging a strong protest with the Yugoslav border authority.

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